

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 11966 201645Z
ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02
L-01 PRS-01 EUR-08 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SAJ-01
DPW-01 /048 W

----- 069085 /53

P R 201605Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2676
HNFO RUDKEBQ/AMEMBASSY BERN 065
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 11966

LIMDIS

FOR ASST SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SHUM CI
SUBJECT: PINOCHET ON CORVALAN-BUKOVSKY EXCHANGE

1. I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHAT WITH PRESIDENT PINOCHET
AT NAVAL ACADEMY GRADUATION CEREMONIES IN VALPARAISO
DECEMBER 18. I FOUND HIM ELATED AT SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION
OF CORVALAN-BUKOVSKY EXCHANGE.

2. PINOCHET EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ROLE OF U.S., BOTH
IN WASHINGTON AND IN SWITZERLAND.

3. PINOCHET RECALLED THAT HE HAD MENTIONED CONCEPT OF
PRISONER EXCHANGE AS EARLY AS SEPTEMBER 1974, ORIGINALLY
ON A MASS BASIS. THE LESSON OF THE CORVALAN-BUKOVSKY
AFFAIR, HE FELT, WAS THAT EVEN A SMALL COUNTRY COULD
SUCCESSFULLY STAND UP TO "THE COMMUNISTS" IF IT WAS FIRM
AND PERSISTENT IN ITS BASIC CONVICTIONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 11966 201645Z

4. THE PRESIDENT MADE MUCH OF THE CONTRAST IN THE
TREATMENT OF THE EXCHANGED PRISONERS DURING THEIR
INCARCERATION. CORVALAN, HE NOTED, HAD BEEN LIVING IN
EXCELLENT CONDITIONS IN THE DETENTION CENTER AT TRES
ALAMOS. HE OFTEN SAW HIS FAMILY AND OTHER VISITORS,
COULD WATCH TELEVISION, AND COULD EVEN RECEIVE TELEPHONE

CALLS FROM ABROAD. ON THE OTHER HAND, BUKOVSKY HAD EVIDENTLY EMERGED FROM HIS SOVIET PRISON IN VERY BAD PHYSICAL SHAPE AND UNINFORMED OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS RELEASE.

5. FOR REASONS NOT CLEARLY EXPLAINED THE PRESIDENT SEEMED PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR THE OTHER HALF OF HIS EXCHANGE PROPOSAL: THAT INVOLVING CHILEAN COMMUNIST JORGE MONTES AND HUBER MATOS OF CUBA.

6. DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL BRADY, PARTICIPATING IN THE CONVERSATION, POINTED OUT THAT NOT LONG AGO CORVALAN HAD INDICATED PUBLICLY THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO LEAVE CHILE, AS THE RESULT OF A PRISONER EXCHANGE OR OTHERWISE. THE FACT THAT HE ACTUALLY LEFT INDICATED TO BRADY THAT NO COMMUNIST - AND CERTAINLY NOT CORVALAN - COULD EXERCISE INDEPENDENT JUDGEMENT.

7. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE RELEASES OF CHILEAN POLITICAL PRISONERS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY OTHER SIGNIFICANT STEPS TOWARD THE RESTORATION OF NORMAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN CHILE. THIS PROCESS HAD TO GO VERY SLOWLY, PINOCHET INDICATED, BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING DANGER THE "COMMUNISTS" POSED FOR THE TRANQUILITY AND PROGRESS OF THE COUNTRY.

8. COMMENT: WE ARE REPORTING SEPARATELY THE MASSIVE LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE GIVEN THE PRISONER EXCHANGE., FEATURING A NUMBER OF THESE SAME THEMES. THE PRINCIPAL MOTIF IS "CHILE WON." THERE IS NO SERIOUS CONSIDERATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTIA 11966 201645Z

OF THE REASONS WHICH IMPELLED THE USSR TO TAKE THE UNPRECEDENTED STEP OF PARTICIPATING IN THE EXCHANGE, NOR IS THERE ANY CONSIDERATION OF THE CONSEQUENCES, IF ANY, FOR FUTURE SOVIET-CHILEAN RELATIONSHIPS.
POPPER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTIA11966
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760466-1066
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761228/aaaaaxrv.tel
Line Count: 102
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PINOCHET ON CORVALAN-BUKOVSKY EXCHANGE
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, PINS, CI, UR, US, (BUKOVSKIY, VLADMIR), (CORVALAN)
To: STATE BERN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006